

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIEP-02 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /114 W

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R 180728Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4899

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, KS, KN

SUBJECT: LOCAL PRESS PLAY ON PRESIDENTIAL CONSTITUTION

DAY SPEECH

REF: SEOUL 4071

1. DISPLACING OTHER IMPORTANT AND NEWSWORTHY ITEMS, PRESIDENT PARK CHUNG HEE'S JULY 16 WAR COLLEGE GRADUATION SPEECH AND HIS JULY 17 CONSTITUTION DAY ADDRESS EMPHASIZING THE NORTH KOREAN THREAT TO KOREAN DEMOCRACY MADE MAJOR HEADLINES IN LOCAL PRESS.

2. PARK WAS QUOTED BY GOVERNMENT OWNED KOREAN HERALD AS SAYING AT WAR COLLEGE THAT SITUATION ON KOREAN PENINSULA MUST BE DESCRIBED AS A "STATE OF WAR, NOT A SEMISTATE OF WAR." HE CHARGED NORTH KOREA AS DESPERATELY BENT ON VIOLENT REVOLUTION AND SAID ROK WAS "UNDERGOING THE MOST DIFFICULT TRIAL IN ITS 5,000 YEAR HISTORY."

3. ON JULY 17 BOTH PARK AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKER CHUNG IL-KWON IN HIS OWN HOLIDAY ADDRESS ALSO EMPHASIZED THEME THAT ANTI-COMMUNISM IS STILL CENTRAL

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TO ROK POLICIES. PARK REITERATED HIS FORMULA FOR

REUNIFICATION THROUGH GRADUAL AND PEACEFUL CONTACT.
WHILE CHUNG STRESSED TIGHTENED NATIONAL UNITY, PARK
REPEATED THEME THAT DEMOCRACY MUST BE "FLEXIBLE" AND
ADAPT TO MEET KOREAN REALITIES AND THAT PEACE IS
PREREQUISITE TO UNIFICATION.

4. STORIES ON PARK'S SPEECHES OVERSHADOWED
OTHER FRONT PAGE STORIES SUCH AS BEGINNING OF FORMER
ROK PRESIDENT YUN PO-SUN'S TRIAL, THE REUTER'S REPORT
ON U.S. REACTION TO COURT MARTIAL TRIALS IN GENERAL,
AND TOKYO'S POSITION ON TRIAL OF TWO JAPANESE NATIONALS.

5. COMMENT: THESE STATEMENTS ARE MORE GENERAL
THAN THE SEVERAL PREVIOUS STATEMENTS ON THEME OF NORTH
KOREAN THREAT WHICH PRESIDENT HAS MADE THIS YEAR. THEY
DO NOT FOR EXAMPLE MAKE THE SOMEWHAT EXAGGERATED CLAIMS
ABOUT THE NORTH'S MILITARY BUILD-UP. NONETHELESS, THEY
ARE STRONG STATEMENTS WHICH MAINTAIN THE HIGH PITCH OF
CONCERN ABOUT DPRK BEING EXPRESSED BY THE GOVERNMENT THESE DAYS.
HABIB

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BUILDUP, PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, ANTICOMMUNIST, MILITARY PLANS, POLITICAL SITUATION, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SEOUL04636
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740193-0365
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740738/aaaabfza.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SEOUL 4071
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 JUL 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <27 MAR 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOCAL PRESS PLAY ON PRESIDENTIAL CONSTITUTION DAY SPEECH
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, KS, KN, (PARK CHUNG HEE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005